

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 17 June 1993



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statistics

Trend employment increasing slowly

The provisional trend estimate of employment increased marginally in May 1993 for the fifth successive month. The trend in full-time employment is also increasing while the trend estimates of unemployment and the unemployment rate have been falling since December 1992 and January 1993 respectively.

Employment

The May 1993 seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons was 7,696,900, an increase of 44,900 since April 1993. Full-time employment increased by 10,600 to 5,915,100 mainly due to an increase of 17,100 in male full-time employment, which now stands at 4,010,400. Seasonally adjusted part-time employment increased by 34,300 to 1,781,800, mainly as a result of an increase of 30,300 in female part-time employment.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

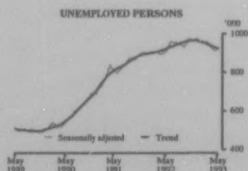
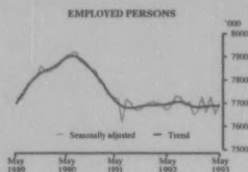
	Employed			Unem- ployed	Unem- ployment rate	Partici- pation rate
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total			
	— '000 —					
1992						
December	5,870.4	1,793.3	7,663.7	973.6	11.3	62.7
1993						
January	5,903.7	1,822.3	7,726.1	954.0	11.0	62.9
February	5,893.8	1,765.4	7,659.2	956.3	11.1	62.4
March	5,940.9	1,786.4	7,727.3	941.3	10.9	62.7
April	5,904.5	1,747.5	7,652.0	914.2	10.7	61.9
May	5,915.1	1,781.8	7,696.9	924.8	10.7	62.2

Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons in May 1993 was 924,800, an increase of 10,700 since April 1993. The number of unemployed persons seeking full-time work decreased slightly to 776,800, with a small fall in male full-time employment outweighing the rise in the number of females seeking full-time work. The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons seeking part-time work increased by 12,600 to 148,000, reflecting an increase of 14,900 in the number of females seeking part-time work.

STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
Seasonally adjusted

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust.
1992							
December	11.2	11.6	10.8	12.0	11.1	12.5	11.3
1993							
January	10.8	11.7	10.8	11.8	10.2	12.7	11.0
February	11.4	11.7	10.7	11.0	9.7	12.3	11.1
March	11.1	11.5	10.4	11.6	8.8	11.9	10.9
April	10.8	11.1	10.0	11.5	9.9	12.5	10.7
May	10.5	12.3	10.3	10.4	9.5	12.4	10.7



Unemployment rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the unemployment rate in May 1993 was 10.7 per cent, unchanged from April 1993. For males, the unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 11.6 per cent, while for females, the unemployment rate increased by 0.4 percentage points to 9.5 per cent.

Participation rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate in May 1993 was 62.2 per cent, an increase of 0.3 percentage points since April 1993. For males, the participation rate increased slightly to 73.6 per cent and for females, the participation rate increased by 0.5 percentage points and now stands at 51.2 per cent.

For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary* (6202.0), or contact Heather Crawford on (06) 252 6525.

Dwelling unit commencements remain strong

The number of dwelling units commenced is estimated to have risen to its highest level in almost four years in the March quarter 1993.

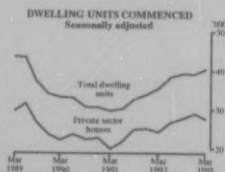
In seasonally adjusted terms, the preliminary estimate of the number of dwelling units commenced in the March quarter 1993 was 40,429, an increase of 3.3 per cent over the December quarter 1992 estimate, and the highest quarterly commencement figure since the June quarter 1989.

The rise in the March quarter was due to the continuing high levels of private sector medium to high density (townhouses, flats, etc.) commencements and a significant increase in public sector housing commencements (over a low base in the December quarter 1992). Private sector house commencements decreased by 4.8 per cent when compared with the December quarter 1992.

DWELLING UNIT COMMENCEMENTS
MARCH QUARTER 1993

	Number	Percentage change	
		From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Private sector houses			
Seasonally adjusted	27,615	- 4.8	13.5
Original	25,611	- 14.5	13.5
Total dwelling units			
Seasonally adjusted	40,429	3.3	13.9
Original	36,946	- 9.4	13.8

Continued ...



In the March quarter 1993, increases in seasonally adjusted dwelling unit commencements were recorded in New South Wales (up 2.1%), Queensland (up 6.3%), South Australia (up 9.8%), Western Australia (up 8.5%) and Tasmania (up 5.1%), while there were falls in Victoria (down 2.3%) and the Australian Capital Territory (down 23.8%). Total dwelling unit commencements in the March quarter 1993 were higher than the corresponding 1992 figures in all States and Territories except Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory.

For further information, order the publication *Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary (8750.0)*, or contact Paul Seville on (06) 252 6067.

Steady rise in home finance

The provisional trend estimate of the number of dwelling units for owner occupation for which finance was committed to individuals in April 1993 increased by 1.7 per cent over the March 1993 estimate, and was up 12.8 per cent on April 1992. The graph at left now indicates a steady upward trend since December 1992. It would require a very large 15 per cent fall in the seasonally adjusted estimate for May to reverse this upward trend.

The upward trend for the category 'construction of dwellings', which began in October 1991, continued while the categories 'established dwellings' and 'newly erected dwellings' now show upward movements from December 1992.

The seasonally adjusted estimate for the number of dwelling units financed in April 1993 increased by 3.0 per cent over March, and was 5,335 dwelling units (15.7%) more than in April 1992. The corresponding original figure decreased by 21.3 per cent.

Of the total number of dwellings financed in April 1993, lending institutions reported that 4,408 dwelling units (12.2%) were being refinanced. This was two percentage points higher than the proportion being re-financed one year earlier.

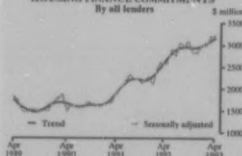
HOUSING FINANCE, APRIL 1993
Number of dwellings

	Established dwellings	Construction of dwellings	Newly erected dwellings	Total
% change from March 1993				
Trend	1.9	0.7	2.6	1.7
Seasonally adjusted	1.9	4.8	13.7	3.0
Unadjusted	-21.4	-21.3	-18.9	-21.3
% change from April 1992				
Trend	13.6	15.2	-7.8	12.8
Seasonally adjusted	16.9	15.6	-0.6	15.7
Unadjusted	5.3	3.0	-11.5	4.0

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS
By all lenders



HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS
By all lenders



Australian miners use advanced technologies

A survey of Australian mining establishments has investigated the adoption of advanced technologies in the industry, especially in the exploration phase of operations.

The survey covered 486 mining establishments throughout Australia. It did not include miners with less than 10 employees. The results have been published as *Mining Technology Statistics, Australia*.

The survey found that at 30 June 1991, 75 per cent of the establishments questioned had acquired one or more of a defined set of 40 advanced technologies used in exploration, mining, minerals processing, engineering and environmental work. The establishments with advanced technology accounted for 97 per cent of total turnover for the metallic minerals, coal, and oil and gas survey groups.

It was found, however, that only a slight increase in the use of technology was planned over the five years from June 1991. For example, 41 per cent of all establishments surveyed said they planned to spend nothing on new technologies in 1991-92, a further 44 per cent expected to spend less than \$500,000, while 3 per cent — largely in the coal and oil and gas industries — planned to outlay more than \$5 million in that year. The survey also found that:

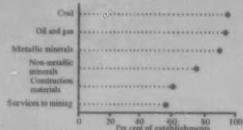
- ☐ at least 75 per cent of the advanced technologies acquired has been obtained from Australian sources;
- ☐ 81 per cent of mining establishments with advanced technology reported no difficulty finding staff skilled in the operation, maintenance or programming of the equipment;
- ☐ advanced exploration technology (such as satellite/airborne scanner data, image processing) was used by 63 per cent of all establishments; and
- ☐ 67 per cent of establishments performed site rehabilitation of some kind, with 45 per cent reporting restoration to the best possible approximation of the ecosystem present before mining commenced.

ESTABLISHMENTS WITH TECHNOLOGY, 30 JUNE 1991
Per cent

Industry description	State						
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT/ ACT
Metallic minerals	90	60	94	100	92	86	89
Coal	96	100	92	100	100	100	-
Oil and gas	100	-	100	100	100	-	100
Construction materials	93	75	42	-	-	-	50
Non-metallic minerals	86	-	33	75	80	100	-
Services to mining	71	50	40	57	61	50	63
Total mining	87	59	65	67	77	69	75

Continued ...

USE OF TECHNOLOGY BY INDUSTRY
30 June 1991



Asked to give their reasons for introducing new technology, over half indicated that they were looking for improved efficiency and increased output. In the specific area of pollution control techniques, legislative requirements and concern for the environment were the main reasons given for introducing advanced monitoring and control technology.

As to results, 46 per cent reported higher output quantities and 50 per cent reported an increase in product quality since introducing the new technologies.

The survey found that a greater percentage of mining establishments in New South Wales than in any other State had adopted at least one of the advanced technologies included in the survey. In contrast, the State with the lowest percentage was Victoria.

For further information, order the publication Mining Technology Statistics, Australia (8413.0), or contact Loucas Harous on (08) 237 7475.

In brief ...

☐ Award rates of pay

Over the 12 months to April 1993, the weekly award rates of pay index for full-time adult employees rose by 0.9 per cent. For full-time adult males and full-time adult females the indexes rose by 0.9 per cent and 1.0 per cent respectively.

The largest movements over the period for full-time adult males occurred in the wholesale and retail trade industry, and in the public administration and defence industry (both 1.3%). For full-time adult females the largest increases occurred in the public administration and defence industry (2.3%), and in the recreation, personal and other services industry (1.7%).

Source: Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia, April 1993 (6312.0).

☐ Overseas arrivals and departures

During the December quarter 1992, 2,716,400 movements of persons into and out of Australia were recorded, an increase of 8 per cent on the December quarter 1991 (2,521,000). Total arrivals (1,386,900) were 8 per cent higher and total departures (1,329,500) were 7 per cent higher than in the December quarter 1991.

In the year 1992, the total number of movements was 9,943,500, an increase of 8 per cent on 1991 (9,211,200). Total arrivals (4,990,100) and total departures (4,953,400) both increased 8 per cent compared with 1991.

Permanent and long-term arrivals in the December quarter 1992 decreased 10 per cent to 53,650 compared with 59,650 in the December quarter 1991, while permanent and long-term departures (37,690) decreased 1 per cent compared with the December quarter 1991 (38,080). The excess of permanent and long-term arrivals over permanent and long-term departures for the December quarter 1992 was 15,960, 26 per cent lower than the net gain of 21,570 for the December quarter 1991.

Source: Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia, December Quarter 1992 (3402.0).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
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17 June 1993

Motor vehicle registrations

In April 1993, the trend estimate for total registrations rose by 0.1 per cent from the March 1993 figure. All monthly trend movements since February 1992 have been within a narrow 1.0 per cent range. The trend estimate for passenger vehicles rose by 0.4 per cent in April, while the trend estimate for 'other vehicles' showed a 1.7 per cent fall.

Of the leading six models of passenger vehicles registered in April, the Ford Falcon/Fairmont led, with 5,217 registrations (down 11.5%). The Holden Commodore/Calais was next with 4,135 registrations (a fall of 19.1%), followed by the Mitsubishi Magna, down by 19.6 per cent to 2,454 registrations.

Source: Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia, April 1993 (9303.0).

Order from the following:

Expected releases over the fortnight to 29 June

- 16 Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, April 1993 (6407.0; \$10.70)
- Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, April 1993 (6408.0; \$8.20)
- 18 Export Price Index, Australia, April 1993 (6405.0; \$8.20)
- Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, April 1993 (6412.0; \$10.70)
- 22 Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, April 1993 (6411.0; \$10.70)
- Import Price Index, Australia, April 1993 (6414.0; \$8.20)
- 23 Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, May 1993, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.70)
- 25 Manufacturing Production, Australia, May 1993 Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.70)

Selected releases: 9 to 15 June

General

NIF-105 Model Data Base Manual (available on floppy disk, magnetic tape and microfiche only), March Qtr 1993 (1340.0; free)

Census of Population and Housing

1991 Census — Census Counts for Small Areas, Qld, 5 August 1991 (2730.3; \$25.00) — new issue

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Local Government, Qld, April 1992 (5502.3; \$18.40)

Labour statistics and prices

Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., April 1993 (6312.0; \$12.70)

Agriculture

Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, NSW, 1991-92 (7503.1; \$16.30)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, April 1993 (8504.0; \$10.70)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., April 1993 (9303.0; \$10.70)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National accounts						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices	Mar. qtr 93	\$m	n.a.	94,192	0.6	2.6
International accounts						
Balance on current account (b)	Apr. 93	\$m	-1,458	-1,719	12	-47
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	-25	-242	66	—
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	-311	-535	41	—
Merchandise exports	"	"	4,777	4,850	2	3
Merchandise imports	"	"	-4,802	-5,092	-7	17
Net foreign debt	31 Mar. 93	\$m	160,615	n.a.	-3.9	7.9
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	208,338	n.a.	-1.5	6.8
Consumption and investment						
Retail turnover at current prices	Apr. 93	\$m	7,905	8,071	0.7	1.5
New capital expenditure at 1989-90 prices	Mar. qtr 93	"	4,944	5,551	-9.2	0.5
New motor vehicle registrations	Apr. 93	no.	40,449	45,714	1.4	5.2
Production						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	Mar. qtr 93	\$m	31,512	33,677	1.1	2.3
Dwelling unit approvals	Apr. 93	"	14,155	15,557	6.9	10.6
Building approvals	"	\$m	1,958	2,102	6.6	17.3
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	Dec. qtr 92	"	6,391	6,086	2.0	6.1
Prices						
Consumer price index	Mar. qtr 93	1989-90 = 100.0	108.9	n.a.	0.9	1.2
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	Mar. 93	1988-89 = 100.0	114.3	n.a.	-0.4	2.4
Materials used in manufacturing industries	Mar. 93	1984-85 = 100.0	125.9	n.a.	-0.6	4.9
Labour force and demography						
Employed persons	May 93	'000	7,715.7	7,696.9	0.6	0.4
Participation rate †	"	%	62.4	62.2	0.3	-0.5
Unemployment rate †	"	%	10.8	10.7	0.1	0.1
Job vacancies	Feb. 93	'000	29.8	28.9	-4.4	8.3
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.14	1.16	3.0	3.8
Estimated resident population at end of qtr	Dec. 92	million	17.6	n.a.	0.2	1.1
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	Mar. 93	'000	258	253	8.4	21.3
Incomes						
Company profits before income tax	Mar. qtr 93	\$m	3,850	4,887	23.9	36.9
Average weekly earnings, full-time adults, ordinary time	Feb. 93	\$	593.70	n.a.	1.2	0.8
Financial markets						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	Mar. 93	% per annum	5.35	n.a.	-0.45	-2.30
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	7.80	n.a.	-0.20	-2.10
Exchange rate — \$US	Apr. 93	per \$A	0.7118	n.a.	1	-7

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia.
 NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Percentage change from same period previous year

Key State indicators

	Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	Sept. qtr 92	-15.9	-15.2	2.9	-29.3	0.3	-18.8	n.a.	n.a.	-10.6
Retail turnover (bnd estimate)	Apr. 93	-1.3	3.0	5.7	-0.1	7.6	1.8	n.a.	7.6	2.1
New motor vehicle registrations†	Apr. 93	-0.6	14.8	5.5	1.3	4.6	20.2	20.3	-12.0	5.2
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	Apr. 93	1.3	-0.8	25.9	13.7	4.9	5.2	-26.6	13.3	10.6
Value of total building work done	Dec. qtr 92	0.7	-1.2	15.8	15.2	16.4	13.1	-9.5	-0.5	5.6
Employed persons*	May 93	-1.6	-0.3	2.5	2.2	2.8	2.4	-9.1	6.1	0.4
Capital city consumer price index	Mar. qtr 93	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.9	0.3	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.2
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	Feb. 93	-1.5	1.8	3.2	1.7	0.3	2.7	4.2	5.2	0.8
Population	Dec. 92	0.9	0.5	2.5	0.5	1.2	0.5	1.0	1.5	1.1
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	Sept. qtr 92	3.9	2.5	3.7	0.2	2.0	-0.7	-0.7	1.7	2.9

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 7). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

